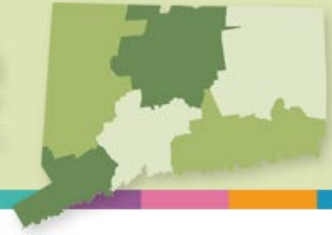


RESC Alliance

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS



February 21, 2023

Support S.B. No. 1047 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN CONTRACTS

TESTIMONY from Jeffrey Kitching, Ed.D., Executive Director of [EdAdvance](#)

Representative Linehan, Senator Maher and honorable members of the Committee on Children. My name is Jeffrey Kitching and I am the Executive Director at EdAdvance, one of six RESCs in Connecticut. Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) are nonprofit, fee-for-service, public education agencies. In collaboration with the other six RESCs, EdAdvance promotes the success of school districts and their communities by collaborating with them to provide educational and related services, including Early Childhood programs and services.

Please support S.B. 1047 to expedite much needed services to children in Connecticut.

The Early Childhood RESC Alliance is a collective of all our early childhood initiatives and programs across the 6 RESCs. It ranges from Head Start, preschool, school readiness, home visitation, Birth to Three, National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation support, early childhood professional development and consultation, coach and mentoring and support to the field of early childhood. We have the capacity to manage and implement programming locally and statewide. Our staff work with families, communities, and early childhood educators in a variety of programs. We serve as ambassadors/hubs on early childhood matters in 6 parts of the state. We work with programs that are state funded and non-state funded and bridge the gap between the two entities. We also work with families in a variety of settings such as home visitation. Our RESCs have the capability and the fiscal strength to take in resources (state and philanthropic funds) to create and manage initiatives that support Early Childhood. Collectively, we can work more purposefully and planful when funding expectations are clear and timely. This bill will allow this to happen.

Raised S.B. 1047, will allow the RESCs to more effectively and expeditiously reach the intended population. The needs of early childhood programs and providers/educators are ever changing as we saw during the pandemic. This bill would help cut through the “red tape”, when necessary and appropriate, to better serve this vulnerable population. There is no better entity to make this happen than the RESCs as their mission is to meet community needs and help educational and state agencies. The RESCs are statutorily created entities that have historically served our districts and the state of CT in many ways. This bill would be a measure that further allows the RESCs to more effectively continue that mission and is directly modeled after an existing statute that provides for the same mechanism for the State Department of Education.

Thank you for supporting this bill and this important step to better serving families in Connecticut.

